

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1550 – SB 1802**

January 25, 2018

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires an accredited facility that performs autopsies to maintain accreditation and operate pursuant to National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) guidelines. Changes the criteria under which an autopsy may be performed at a non-accredited facility.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- All autopsies ordered by the county or state medical examiner or by a district attorney are currently performed in one of the five regional forensic centers in the state.
- The regional forensic centers are staffed by board-certified forensic pathologists and must be accredited by the NAME.
- Forensic autopsies are paid for by the state and county ordering the investigation.
- NAME accredited facilities are not inspected by the state nor do they pay any fees to the state; therefore, any fiscal impact on state and local governments is estimated to be not significant.
- The proposed legislation allows autopsies to be performed at a non-accredited facility if the facility: receives provisional accreditation from NAME within two years of beginning operations; receives full accreditation from NAME within three years of beginning operations; and the facility operates pursuant to NAME guidelines.
- The only non-accredited facilities that perform autopsies are hospitals which are currently licensed by the Office of Health Care Facilities (HCF). Autopsies performed at these hospitals are for non-medical examiner cases. The proposed legislation will not result in a significant fiscal impact to the state as these facilities will remain licensed by the HCF in future years.

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**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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